REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10, 63, and 64 have been cancelled and claims 36 and 37 amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. New claims 67-72 have been added. All amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled, non-elected, or otherwise unclaimed subject matter in a subsequently filed continuation, divisional, or other application. These amendments do not add any new matter and are supported by the originally filed application. Consideration and entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner requires the election of one of Group I (expression vectors), Group III (isolated peptides and methods of using the same), or Group III (antibodies). Applicants hereby elect Group II without traverse. The Examiner further requires election of a peptide species upon which the initial search and examination is to be based. Applicants therefore hereby elect as the species the peptide LMDMQTFKA (SEQ ID NO.:7). Applicants do not believe a search and examination encompassing all of the peptides listed in Tables IV and V would present an undue burden upon the Examiner. As such, Applicants respectfully disagree that election of a single species is necessary and request that all of the claimed peptides be subjected to simultaneous examination.

Consideration and entry of this Statement and attachments is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the application is in order and the claims are allowable. As such, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued as soon as possible. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if it is believe doing so would expedite prosecution.

CONCLUSIONS

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 7, 2009

Patrick . Halloran Reg. No. 41,053

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